The proceedings commenced at 12 noon, V. S. Subrahmanya Aiyar Esq., B. A., B. L., Dewan, presiding. Among those present were Lieut. Col. H. R. N. Pritchard C. I. E., O. B. E., Agent to the Governor-General, Madras States, Capt. Kunwar Daya Singh Bedi, Assistant Agent to the Governor-General, H. S. Chatfield Esq., M. A., Barrister-at-law, Chief Justice, High Court, Major G. F. Turner, M. C., Commandant, Nayar Brigade, Heads of the various Departments and Offices, and Members of the Legislative Council.

Copies of the Dewan's Opening Address in English, Malayalam and Tamil were distributed to the members, as also copies of the Administration Report of the State for 1105 M. E. in English and Malayalam, of the report on the operations of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for 1105 M. E. in English and Malayalam, of the Statistics of Travancore for 1105 M. E, in English, and of the Memoranda of subjects for representation at the session in English, Malayalam and Tamil. Copies, in English, of the Statement of Action on pending representations of the twenty-second and subsequent sessions of the Assembly were also distributed among the members.

The Dewan then opened the session with the following

ADDRESS.

MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY,

Under the gracious command of Her Highness the Maha Rani Regent, it is my privilege to welcome you to the twenty-seventh session of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly. This gathering is in one respect unique in that for the first time women have been enabled to become members ; and I extend my cordial welcome to the five ladies who have been nominated to this session. The Assembly Rules have been revised so as to confer on women both the right to vote and the right to be returned as members. Although the lady members at this session have been nominated by the Government, it is hoped that, at future sessions, elected women-members will take their place. This measure, I need hardly assure you, is the outcome of Her Highness the Maha Rani Regent's solicitude to advance the cause of women and to give them their rightful place in the political life of the country.

His Highness The Maha Raja.

2. The administrative training of His Highness the Maha Raja began in April last soon after Mr. Dutt arrived in Trivandrum. In the third week of April, His Highness, accompanied by his Tutors and personal staff, proceeded to Bangalore, where with the co-operation of the Government of Mysore, arrangements had been made for His Highness's stay and education. After an introductory course of studies in the theory of politics, the training has been mostly in the practical details of administration. Except for the period from the 24th September 1930 to the 4th November 1930, when His Highness returned to

Trivandrum in connection with His Highness's Birthday and the *Utsavom* in the Sri Padmanabhaswami temple, and for a short trip to Madras during the Christmas week in 1930, His Highness has been occupied with his studies in Bangalore, in the course of which he has also visitsd several mofussil stations in the Mysore State. In the second week of February last, His Highness proceeded to Waltair in the Vizagapatam District to acquaint himself with the details of the British Indian District organisation and work. Captain Harvey reports that His Highness continued to make very satisfactory progress in his studies and that mental progress and expansion of personality have been marked and rapid. The establishment of a separate household has resulted in much greater self-reliance, initiative and power of decision. Opportunities for studying the laws and institutions of a progressive State have greatly broadened His Highness's experience and enlarged His Highness's sympathies and interests. The thanks of the Government and the people of Travancore are due to the Governments of Mysore and Madras for their help and co-operation in the administrative training of His Highness the Maha Raja.

The Indian Round Table Conference.

3. One outstanding event of profound political importance since we met last was the summoning by His Majesty the King Emperor of the Round Table Conference in London to explore the possibilities of a satisfactory settlement of the great Indian constitutional problem. The inauguration of any substantial measure of constitutional reforms in British India recognising the principle of the responsibility of the executive to the legislature must necessarily affect the future relations of Indian States with the Government of India. And accordingly, His Majesty's Government had invited representatives from Indian States to participate in the deliberations of the Conference. Sir Mirza Ismail, the Dewan of Mysore, was the delegate for the South Indian States; and Dewan Bahadur T. Raghaviah Esq., President of the Council of Administration, Pudukotta, was selected as Advisor to Sir Mirza Ismail on behalf of the Madras States. Mr. G. Parameswaran Pillai, who was at the time on special duty with me in connection with the Round Table Conference matters, was deputed as Secretary to Mr. Raghaviah and Mr. N. Krishnamurti, Income Tax Inspector, was appointed as Personal Assistant to Mr. Raghaviah.

The immediate result of the deliberations in London was the acceptance of federation as the basis of the future Indian polity. It was generally agreed that the Central Government should be a federation of All-India embracing both the Indian States and British India in a bicameral legislature. The precise form and structure of the new Federal Government will be determined after further discussion with the representatives of Indian States and British India. The Federal Government will have authority only in such matters concerning the States as will be ceded to it by their Rulers in agreements made by them on entering into the Federation. The Federal Structure Sub-Committee